



# Mimulus Memo

California Native Plant Society — Kern County Chapter  
July/August 2009

## President's Thoughts

by Dorie Giragosian

Well, we have had several activities for you to read about, but they might not make it in time for Stephen to get into this newsletter. Bonnie East and I went on a hike, and she will tell you about the afternoon. I rode in the car to and from Las Vegas this weekend, and found myself looking out at the plants along the way. It raised more questions in my mind, than I have answers for, and I have to look up what I saw, so I can learn more plant identities to recognize in the future..

We have been trying to schedule a meeting to begin work in earnest on the Plant Sale. Anyone interested can come. Saturday, July 25th, at the Garden Spot at Truxton Extension and Oak Street, 12:00 lunch time. We would love to have a crowd, but let me know, so I can warn the restaurant. Just email me back, and let me know. Also, anyone who needs certain plants, or have friends that need certain ones, please give us your wish lists, and quantities, and we will see if we can gather them for the sale. The sooner the better, so we can write up our purchasing list. Our Plant Sale will be listed in Pacific Horticulture Magazine, along with other CNPS chapters in the state. You might look us up in there. It is time to begin thinking about helping the club get ready for, and hold the sale. We can always use plant transporters, cashiers, people to help customers, and people interested in talking about the club to interested visitors. I am sure you could find something you would enjoy doing for the club.

Wednesday, July 15, I will make a journey to Tehachapi, to go to my first Weed Abatement Meeting. I invited myself, and they said I could come, so wish me luck on that! Also, along the same lines, there is a California Invasive Plant Council in Visalia, October 7th thru the 10th. For more information, log on to [cal-ipc.org](http://cal-ipc.org). I think they also have planned field trips listed to help remove invasives in certain areas. It should be a good opportunity to help the state, and see some natives, as well as helping to fight invasives.

Don't forget to invite friends and neighbors to our meetings. You can carpool, and have someone to visit with on the way there. Be sure to tell them we won't make them join the club (right away), and also will not coerce them into participating on committees.

We are trying to put together a potluck for July 22nd, at my house. I'll supply burger (turkey, beef, and veggie) patties, and buns with condiments. I should have enough chairs and tables. You can bring whatever you want, maybe even something healthy. We can cruise my somewhat wild yard, and see what nature has planted, and give me feedback on what I should yank out. I hope you can make it. We will write more about the potluck, in a follow-up Mimulus "Flash", with times and directions. Hope to see you there (here).

Hope everyone is having a great summer, and hope you get to see lots of fun plants along the way. Feel free to write up trips you took, and inspire others to see new places. I'd like to hear where you have been. I need more places to tempt me to get out into nature more.

See you soon. Dorie

# Kern CNPS Panorama Vista Meeting

by Andy Honig

The June 16 Chapter meeting was a potluck held along the Kern River in the Panorama Vista Preserve. The middle of June can be a chancy time for an evening outdoor meeting. However, the temperature was pleasant that evening. The River was flowing nicely and the flies were few.

During the potluck, I gave members a brief background of the Panorama Vista Preserve and told about the current plans for restoration. Several non-members attended too, and were interested in all that was going on at the preserve. Afterwards, a number of members were given a tour to get a view of the extensive riparian area within the Preserve and to get a better idea of the current progress of the on-going tree planting.

Our President, Dorie Giragosian, and past President, Lucy Clark have expressed a strong interest in being involved in propagation of plants native to Panorama Vista (as well as to Kern County), including fremont cottonwood, various species of willow, elderberry and sycamore. Cottonwood and willow are readily propagated from cuttings, but also from seed. Sycamore are best propagated from seed.

Seed from Cottonwood and black willow can still be gathered from the fuzz of their fruiting bodies. Elderberry fruit is ripening now and can be readily gathered for the next several weeks. Run the elderberries in a blender, strain the puree and you'll have the juice for jelly and the seeds for planting. The time to take cuttings from the cottonwood and willow will be this winter during dormancy.

If you are interested in participating in propagation of Panorama Vista natives, for the Panorama Vista revegetation or for our CNPS plant sales, contact Andy Honig at [andym5@bak.rr.com](mailto:andym5@bak.rr.com) or Dorie at [dorengiragosian@peoplepc.com](mailto:dorengiragosian@peoplepc.com).



# Aliso Canyon Hike --- Hike at Your Own Risk—

by Bonnie East

Our new Club President, Dorie Giragosian and I went on an official/unofficial Club hike June 20 to the Sierra Madre Mountains in the Los Padres National Forest. I was all set and excited to get to the campground at the top of Aliso Canyon Road, eat a quick lunch and strike out on the trail ( I was up at the same trailhead a year earlier) and anxious to share the beautiful coastal chaparral habitat findings with Dorie.

Upon arrival at the campground we found bright yellow posters in English and Spanish stapled on all tables at the campsites that read in part: \* \* \* Warning \* \* \* You are entering a wildlife area where a confirmed Mountain Lion attack occurred May 26, 2009. Needless to say I felt totally responsible for everything and anything that was going on from that moment on. I had encouraged Dorie to come out and see native plants in habitat.

Upon asking her if she was still *game*....or maybe I asked if she was still up for the hike, she said yes. We did the hike, didn't get that far because there were so many plants and so little time. It turned out to be a great day even if the lion attack was ever-present in our minds. I've attached a partial plant list from our journey but in the meantime....

A few days later I made phone calls and ended up speaking with a Los Padres PR contact and the head ranger at the Mt. Pinos Ranger District about the incident. It turns out that a Mountain Lion carried off some campers' dog (there were two dogs tethered to the back of a vehicle). The dog survived when a second family dog broke loose from its leash and went after the lion. The lion dropped the dog from its mouth, and ran off. The campers' retrieved their dog, took it to a vet and it survived.

My concern to the LPNF officials was that I had been on their website two days before the hike and there was no mention of the incident. I may have decided against the hike had I seen that information. I was told that I brought up a good point meaning perhaps they would post such incidents in the future. I was also told some other *politically correct* legalese that I have forgiven them for at this point. I have spent many enjoyable times hiking in many places over the years and have only seen bear from a distance in the Sierras, coyote and bobcat here and there but for the most part do not 'worry' about being out in the wilderness and being in harms way from wild animals (humans worry me more). I know Dorie will never forget her first CNPS hike and I think she will be just fine because she hasn't resigned as our club president. Here's to our next hike. There are no guarantees, just taking life as it comes. Until we meet again, *Bonnie*

## Partial Plant List from Aliso Canyon Hike

*Acer macrophyllum* — Big Leaf Maple  
*Quercus* spp. — Interior Live, Scrub oak  
*Platanus racemosa* — California Sycamore  
*Juniperus californica* — California Juniper  
*Fremontodendron californicum* — Flannel Bush  
*Sambucus mexicana* — Elderberry  
*Prunus illicifolia* — Holly Leaf Cherry  
*Toxicodendron diversilobum* — Poison Oak  
*Cercocarpus betuloides* — Mtn. Mahogany  
*Adenostoma fasciculatum* — Chamise  
*Rhamnus californica* — Coffeeberry  
*Baccharis salicifolia* — Mule Fat  
*Arctostaphylos glauca* — Big Berry Manzanita  
*Garrya flavescens* — Silk Tassel Bush  
*Eriodictyon californicum* — Yerba Santa  
*Salvia leucophylla* — Purple sage  
*Yucca whipplei*(*Hesperoyucca w.*) — Chaparral Yucca  
Numerous grass species and dried up fern/forb species

*Amorpha californica* — California False Indigo  
*Dendromecon rigida* — Bush Poppy  
*Artemisia* sp. — Calif. Sagebrush, Mugwort  
*Ericameria* sp. — Golden bush  
*Brickellia californica* — Brickell Bush  
*Eriogonum fasciculatum* — California Buckwheat  
*Paeonia californica* — California Peony  
*Ribes* sp.  
*Lonicera* sp.  
*Clematis* sp.  
*Lotus* sp.  
*Penstemon* sp.  
*Penstemon centranthifolius* — Scarlet Bugler  
*Chorizanthe* sp.  
*Apiaceae* sp. — Carrot family

**So Club, What do you think? Field trip in the spring?**

## Disaster Averted! Balance Restored To The Cosmos.

Just when things looked like they would crumble apart and vanish into the darkness, when the menacing specter of anarchy loomed on the horizon and the dissonance of chaos rang in our ears, balance was once again restored to the Universe. With the election of new officers to the Kern Chapter of The California Native Plant Society the threat of catastrophe was quashed. Yes, Kern CNPS mended a rip in the fabric of space-time as neatly as darning a pair of your favorite hiking socks. The new officers are:

President – Dorie Giragosian  
Treasurer – Kathy Sharum  
Secretary – Susie Nind

Congratulations to Everyone! We all know you will do a marvelous job and remember – it's up to you to maintain balance in the Universe.

[editor's note: You may have noticed that Susie Nind was not on the ballot but was elected Secretary anyway. When you're fooling around with the fabric of space-time you have to expect a few odd results]

### MEETINGS

#### Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendars: A Certified Arborist will be giving a talk on the proper care and pruning of trees. Plan to come and learn how trees in

Bakersfield landscapes should and should not be pruned.

Club Meetings: Usual Itinerary:

6:00 - 7:00 PM Keying plants or TBA

7:00 Program: Certified Arborist....The Proper Pruning of Trees

Business meeting to follow

### CLUB EVENTS

#### Annual CNPS Kern Chapter Plant Sale

As of this writing the annual plant sale is slated to be held at the Facility for Animal Care and Treatment (FACT) at CSUB sometime in the latter part of October. A *Mimulus Flash* will be sent by email to members when a date is confirmed with CSUB (plant sale notifications will also be in the usual news media outlets as well). If you need to order plants or have questions about the sale please contact Plant Sale Committee members Debby Kroeger, [decay@att.net](mailto:decay@att.net) or Bonnie East, [bonsdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:bonsdesigns@gmail.com).

#### Chapter Weekend Camping Trip – August 14-16

Come one come all. Lucy Clark, our wonderful past Chapter President had a great suggestion earlier this spring. She mentioned it would be great to do a club camping trip up at Horse Meadow on the Kern Plateau. I agree; so on August 14-16 there is going to be a club camping trip. If you have never been to the Kern Plateau you are in for a treat. It'll be a great way for members to get to know each other, see Kern and Tulare counties in very different aspects - beautiful mountain habitats - and to feel a chill in the night-time air when the temperatures in Bakersfield are still hot! If you are interested in going please contact Bonnie East at [bonsdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:bonsdesigns@gmail.com). An itinerary for weekend activities is still being worked out. Send me your suggestions.

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE AT

[www.KernCNPS.org](http://www.KernCNPS.org)



## CNPS Educational Grants

Each year the State CNPS Educational Grants program receives funding to help support field research related to California's native plants. Students, CNPS members, or postdoctoral botanists are eligible, in that order, for grants that are generally not more than \$1,000. Proposals should involve taxa or plant communities that are of concern due to direct or indirect potential impacts. The grants need to be relevant to our conservation mission. Certain small endowed funds are available specifically for graduate students planning research involving rare plants or evolutionary botany.

If you are interested in obtaining support from CNPS for your work, request a copy of the guidelines (for drafting and submitting a proposal) from the state CNPS office. Requests for this or other information can be directed to Chair, Educational Grants Committee, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Completed proposals must be received in the CNPS office no later than September 30, 2009.

—Joan Stewart, Chair  
CNPS Educational Grants Committee



CNPS – Kern County Chapter

% Stephen Cooley, Editor

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# INTERNET EDITION

The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to conserve them and their natural habitats through science, education, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship.